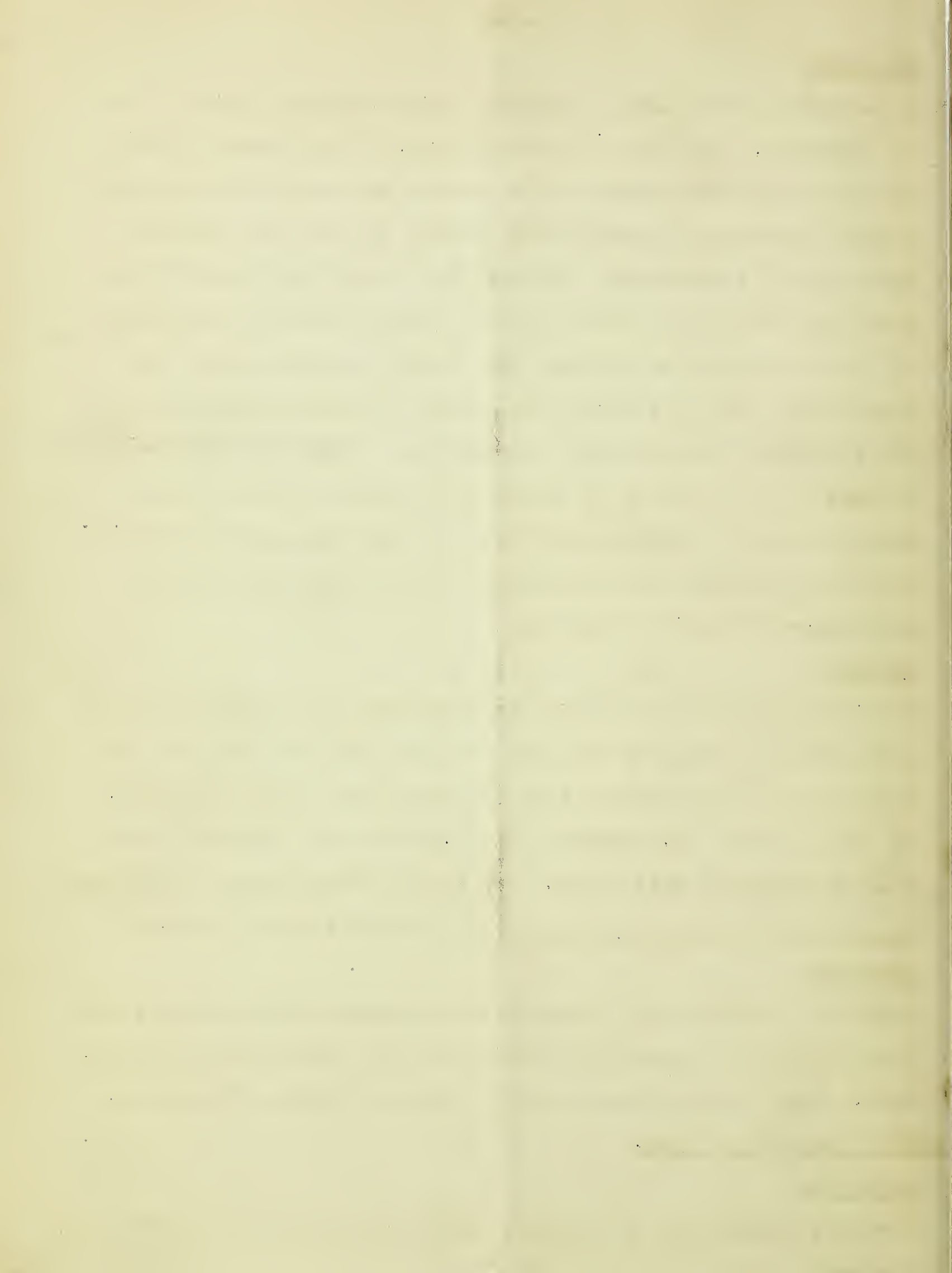
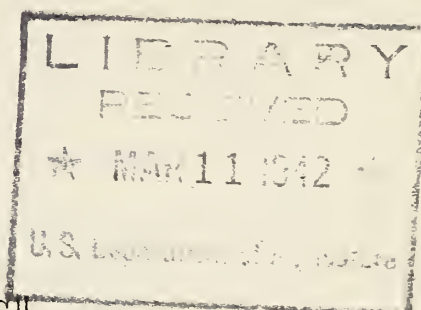


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F O R T U N E S W A S H E D A W A Y



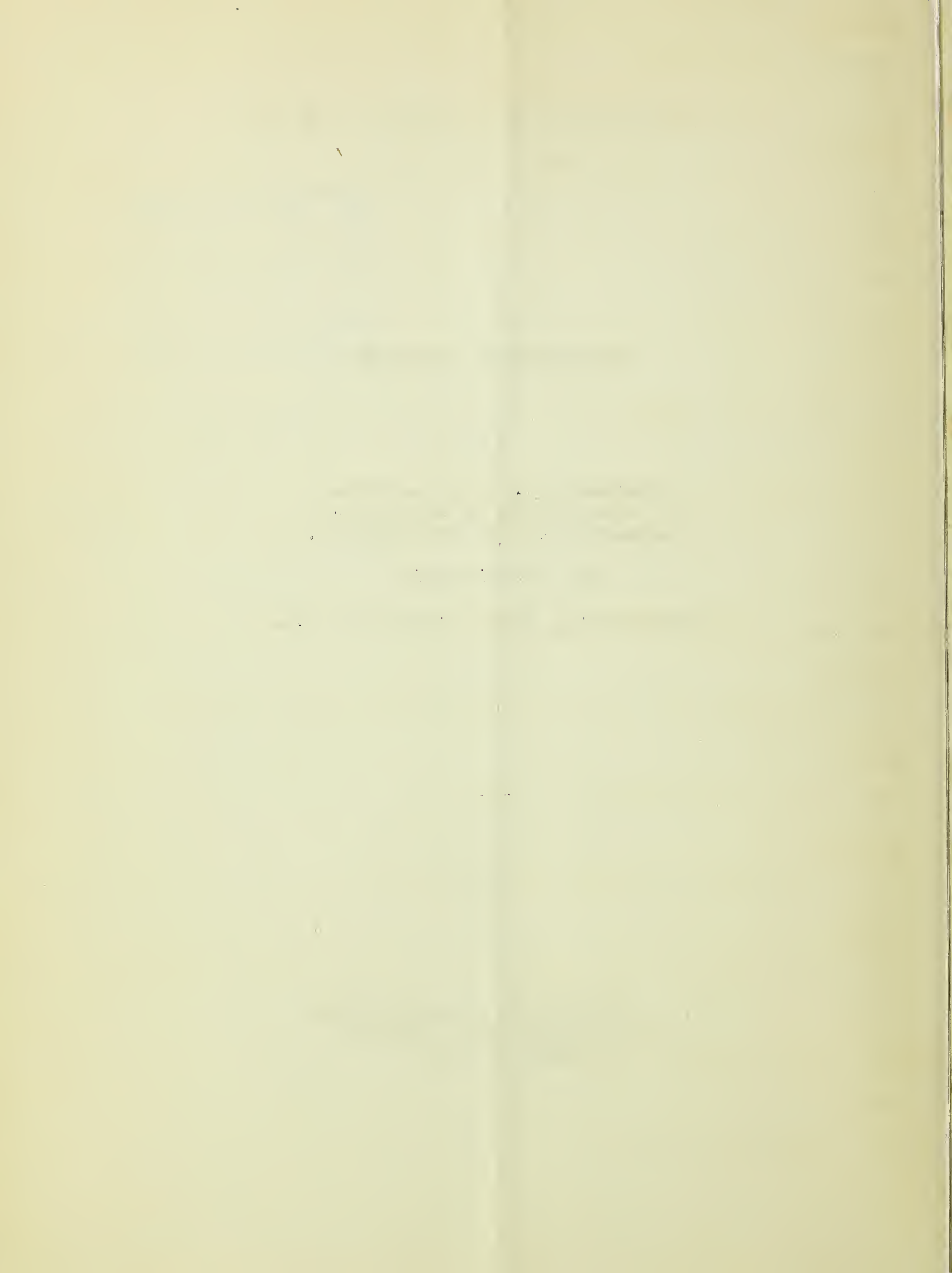
"CHAMPIONSHIP FARMING"

Broadcast No. 30 in a series
of discussions of soil con-
servation in the Ohio Valley.

WLW, Cincinnati

November 19, 1938 6:00 -6:15 p.m.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Dayton, Ohio



SOUND: Thunder, followed by rain...

ANNOUNCER

Fortunes Washed Away!

ORGAN: I GET THE BLUES WHEN IT RAINS.

ANNOUNCER

To Warrick County, Indiana, and the wooded bluffs along the Ohio River came a pioneer--Lewis Taylor. Five generations of Taylors have helped build the agriculture and industry of Warrick County. Perry Taylor, of the second generation, was a good farmer--a farmer who knew that the sturdy stands of beech, oak, basswood, and tulip poplar would hold the soil on Warrick County's rolling hills. He knew that clover would bind the soil, and only occasionally did he break the ground for cultivation. In 1893, he grew a crop of wheat on a high ridge on the outskirts of Yankeetown...

SOUND: Men scooping wheat into sacks.

HUBBARD

Hold that sack open a little more, Nathan...that's right.

NATHAN

Want me to scoop awhile?

HUBBARD

No, we're nearly finished with this load.

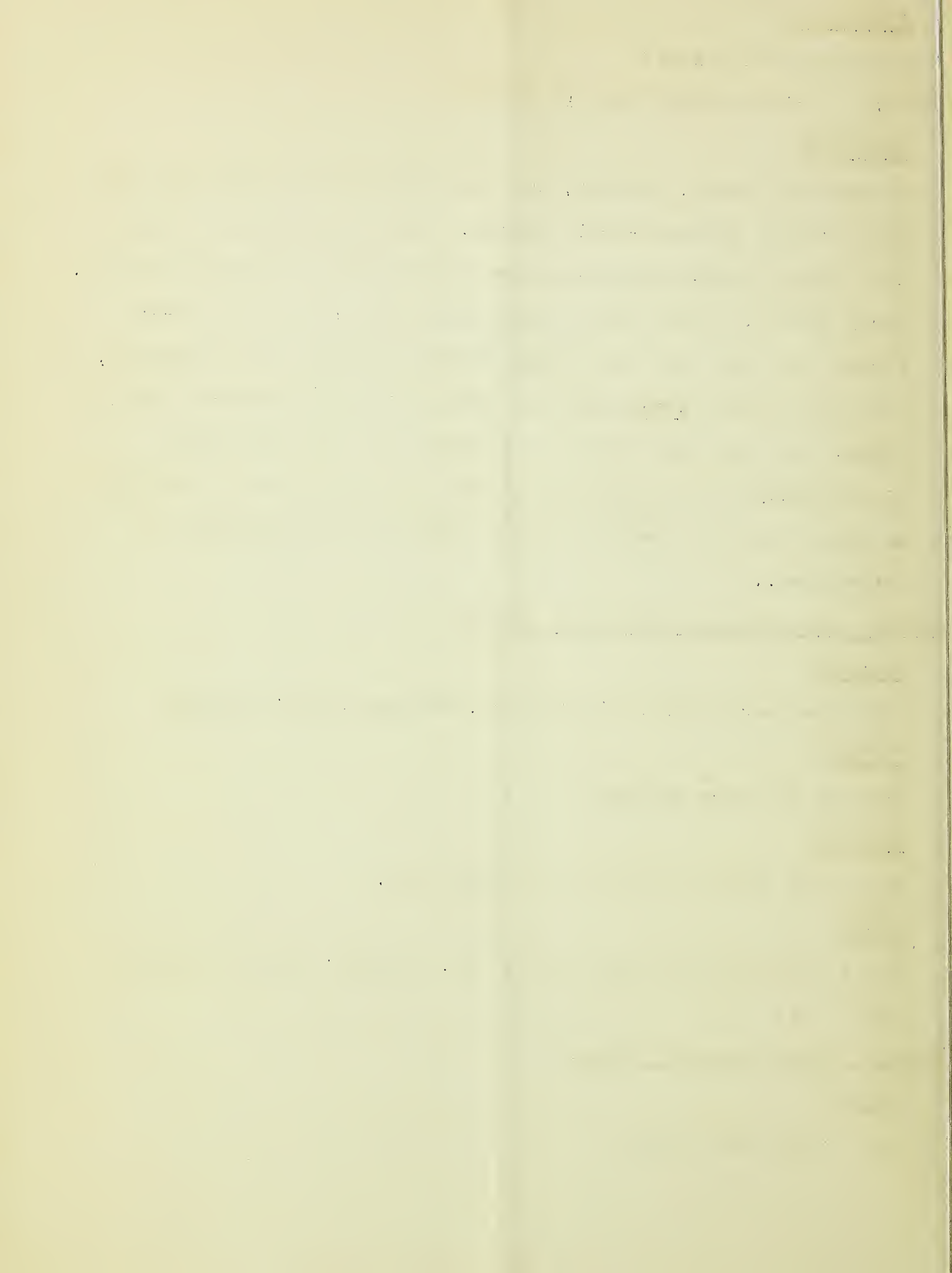
PERRY

And I guess you boys are glad of it. Sackin' wheat is always hard work.

SOUND: Wheat scooping stops.

NATHAN

All right, here we go.



PERRY

Wait, I'll give you a hand.

SOUND: Sack of wheat tossed into wagon.

HUBBARD

You sure got good wheat, dad. I haven't seen any like it anywheres around here.

NATHAN

Me neither.

PERRY

Yes, it's good wheat. Awful good. Made 40 bushels to the acre.

NATHAN

Well, wheat makes a lot of hard work, but it's quicker money than you get by raising hay and livestock. I think we oughta grow more wheat, dad.

PERRY

There's good money in wheat, Nathan, but you forget something. When you plow these hills they wash pretty bad.

HUBBARD

I didn't see 'em washing any this year.

NATHAN

And this field's pretty steep, too.

PERRY

I know you didn't see any washing. Oh, there might have been a little, but that's good soil on the hill. Been in clover meadow for a long time. That's why it didn't wash.

HUBBARD

I don't see what that's got to do with it.

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C.

PERRY

Boys, if you were as old as I am you'd see. I remember helping your granddad clear some of this land. It was nice and rich and loamy--full of leaves and rotted stems and twigs off the trees that had been growing here for hundreds of years, I expect. Soil like that don't wash. Grass helps the soil the same way--that's why I always kept this land in clover most of the time.

NATHAN

Anyhow, this is good wheat. You know, we ought to take it to the grain show in Chicago, dad.

PERRY

Oh, pshaw!.....sa-a-y, now that's not such a bad idea. Maybe we can.

ORGAN: IN OLD CHICAGO.

ANNOUNCER

And Perry Taylor and his sons, Nathan and Hubbard, did go to the grain show in Chicago that fall, carrying with them a sackful of that fine wheat grown on their Warrick County farm. But--they hesitated to enter it into the competition of the International Hay and Grain Show...

SOUND: Bawling cattle, milling crowds, at fair.

PERRY

Nathan, these other samples of wheat don't look any better'n ours.

NATHAN

Naw. Don't believe they're as good. Look at that one there. I'll bet that don't weigh more'n 60 pounds to the bushel, and ours will beat that.

HUBBARD

Yeah, but come over here and look at this.

PERRY

Sa-a-a-ay...that looks mighty good.

NATHAN

Don't it, though?

HUBBARD

Here, bite into it.

PERRY

Umm.....

HUBBARD

See how hard it is? Good texture.

PERRY

And it seems to be pure and sound, too. Not many broken kernels or shriveled grain.

NATHAN

It's not weeviled out, like some we saw.

PERRY

Well, I still don't think it's as good as ours. See that color?

HUBBARD

Sort of dull red.

PERRY

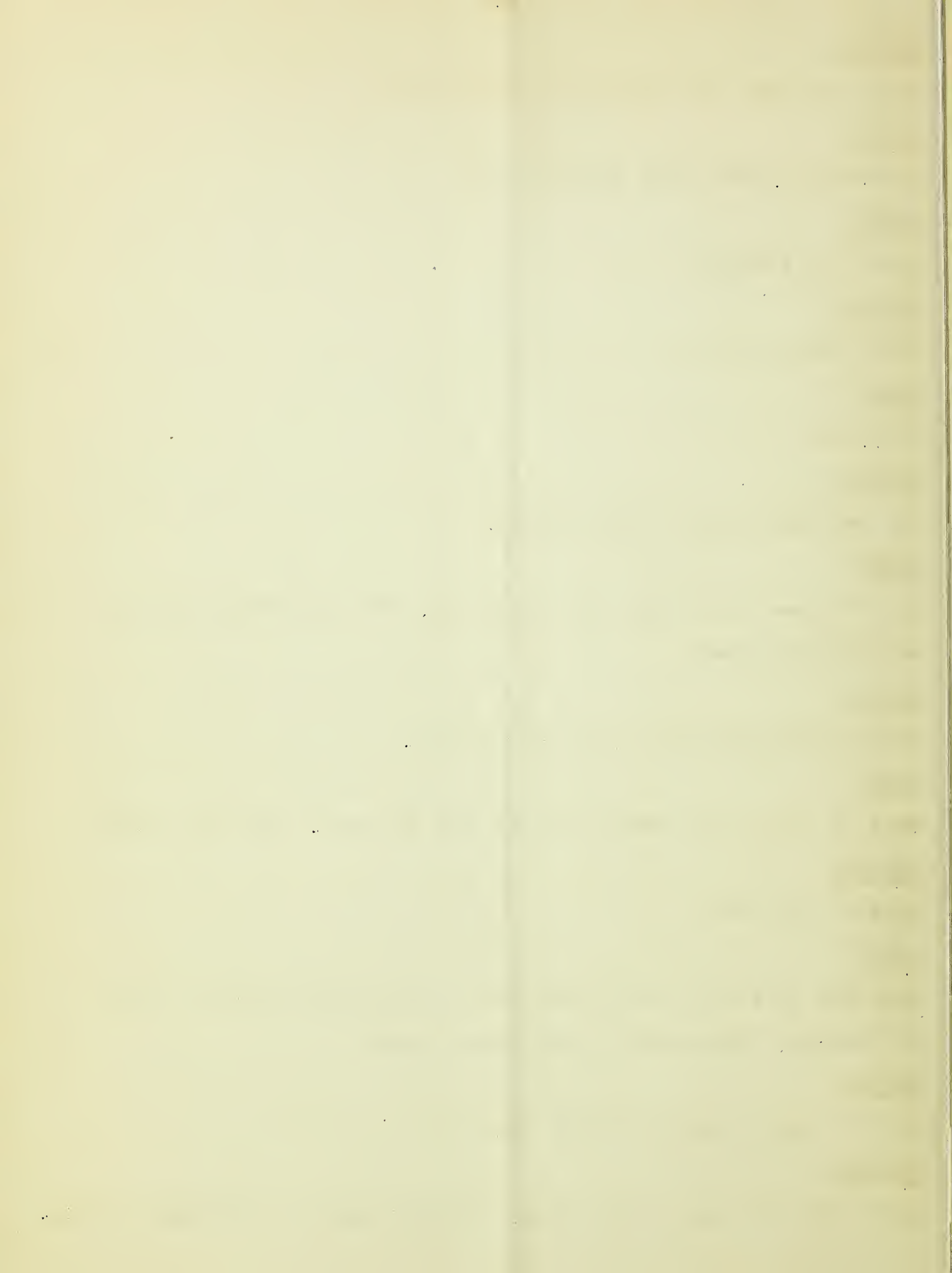
Yes, and ours is a good, clear red. That's one important point in judging. Well, what do you think, boys?

NATHAN

I don't see no harm in trying it.

HUBBARD

Let's ask this man. He's got an official badge or something on him.



PERRY

Let's do that. Oh, pardon me, Mister...

JUDGE

Yes? Can I help you?

PERRY

Why, we was just thinking...

HUBBARD

...you see, we have some wheat, and...

PERRY

Now, wait a minute, Hubbard...

JUDGE

You have some wheat in the competition?

PERRY

No, we're just thinking about putting a sample of wheat into it.

HUBBARD

That's it!

JUDGE (good naturedly)

Well, fine, fine. Won't cost you anything. Now, I happen to be judging the wheat, and naturally, I'd like to have a lot of good entries. Where is your wheat?

PERRY

We have it over there in a sack.

HUBBARD

Yeah, right over there!

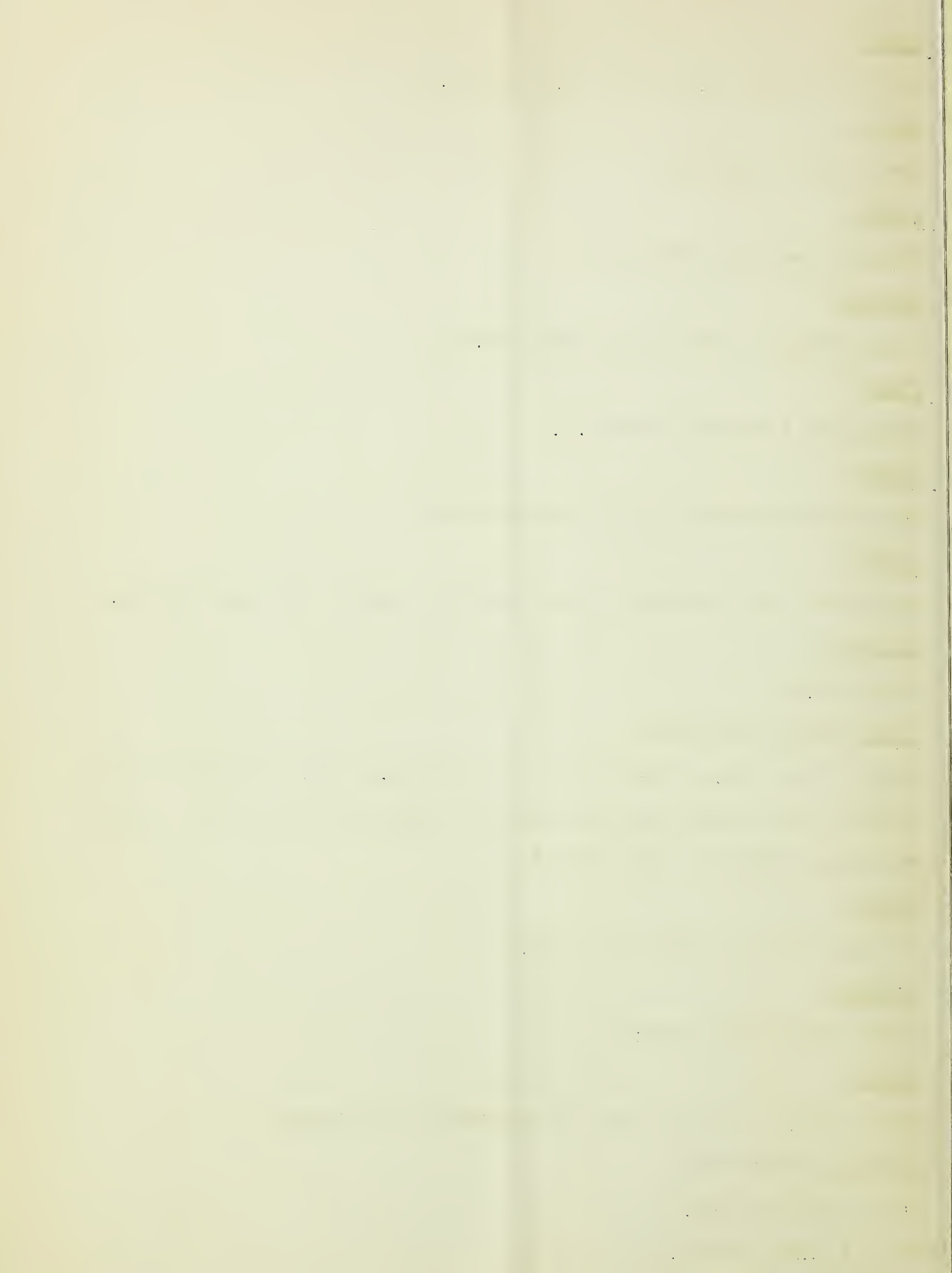
JUDGE

Fine, fine. I'll get you an exhibition container.

HUBBARD (excitedly)

I'll get the wheat.

ORGAN: IN OLD CHICAGO.



SOUND: Milling of crowd, hubbub.

NATHAN

He didn't look very long at ours, did he?

HUBBARD

Why, he almost went right by it. And it's a cinch ours is as clean as any of them.

PERRY

Don't worry. He's looked at all of them a good many times today. I saw him stick a handful of ours in his coat pocket.

HUBBARD

That ought to be a good sign, ought'n it?

PERRY

I suppose so. But just be patient.

NATHAN

Oh, oh, here he comes. He's got the blue ribbon out. I wish he'd smile, or something. Just walks around with that blank expression...

PERRY

There he goes! He's putting it on our wheat!

SOUND: Cheers from crowd.

HUBBARD

Oh, boy! We got it! We got it!

PERRY (trying to conceal his happiness)

Yes, yes...that old Warrick County farmland that we kept in clover so long...has paid us back--in world's champion wheat!

ORGAN:

ANNOUNCER

The years slipped past. Farmlands of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, have been used hard. Since 1893, producing world championship wheat has been taken over by newer lands, the rich grain belt of the plains states--Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, and by Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Meantime, back in Warrick County, Indiana, Perry Taylor passed on. His hilly farm, with its rich but highly erodible soil, was farmed intensively. Run-off waters carried the topsoil away. Gullies formed. Much of the land had to be abandoned, and then, in 1934, an attempt was made to reclaim it...

SOUND: Barnyard noises. Chickens and creaking of windmill.

MANUEL

Those slopes up there are pretty badly gullied, Mr. Taylor. We'll have to put in quite a few small dams. You see, the soil washes...

NATHAN

Oh, yes...it washes terrible. Why, all those gullies have come in there in the last 15 or 20 years.

MANUEL

How long have you been farming it?

NATHAN

Not so long, Mr. Manuel. Oh, it was broken out occasionally by my father, like in '93 when we raised the world's championship bushel of wheat. But it's only been in the last 30 years that we farmed it real hard.

MANUEL

That soil up there is Princeton silt loam. It's unusually erodible. We sometimes call it "rat-hole" soil.

NATHAN

Yes, I've heard it called that.

MANUEL

Water just seems to eat into it and down through every little opening and crevice.

NATHAN

Yes, yes....it cuts a little gully and then eats away underneath. Then, all of a sudden the dirt caves into the gully and...SWOOSH! Away it goes. I never saw anything like it.

MANUEL

This was original tree country. And black locusts will stop those gullies in just a few years, if you're willing to have the boys from our CCC camp plant the trees, Mr. Taylor.

NATHAN

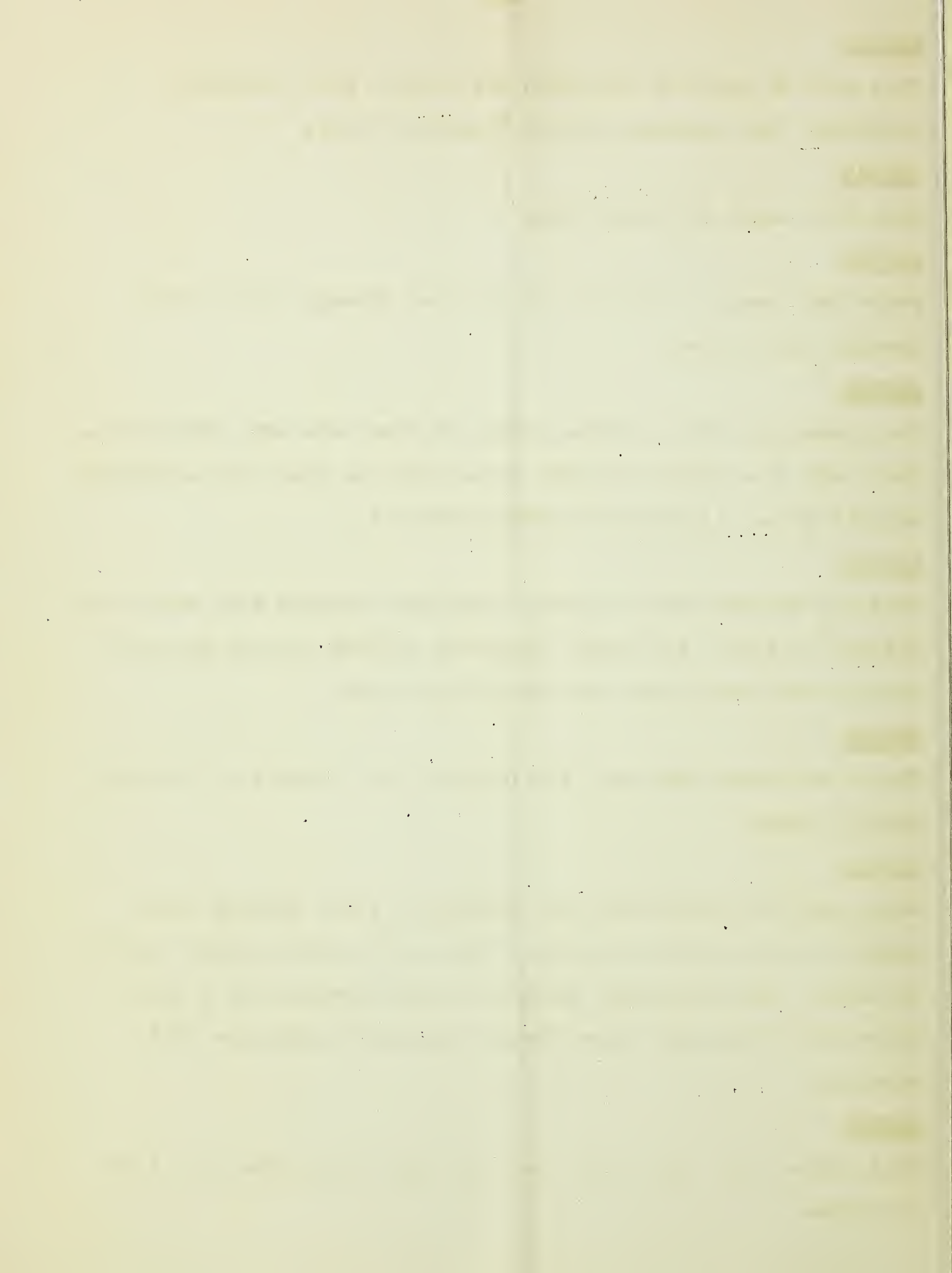
That's all right with me. I'll be glad to. I can't do anything with it alone.

MANUEL

Well, now, you could have, Mr. Taylor, if you'd planted trees when it first started to gully. That soil's still pretty fertile up there. It's naturally adapted to black locust, and I don't think it'll take many years for the locusts to stop the soil washing.

NATHAN

Well, maybe not. My old dad had the right idea...keep the land in grass.



MANUEL

He sure did, but it's too badly gullied now. It'll have to go into trees for a good many years. Maybe in 50 years or so it can be cleared and put to grass again. And remember this, Mr. Taylor: Square farming in round country doesn't pay. And it doesn't pay to grow crops--even world's champion wheat--on slopes that nature made for trees.

ORGAN:

ANNOUNCER

The gullied slopes on the Taylor farm were planted to black locusts in 1934. Unfortunately, Nathan Taylor has not lived to see the trees reclaim his land. But the black locusts--now more than 20 feet high--have done their work. Before many more years pass, those slopes once again will be clothed in a mantle of hardwood forest trees, not unlike the giant trees that towered there a hundred years ago when old Lewis Taylor moved into the Indiana wilderness.

ORGAN: WHEN MOTHER NATURE SINGS HER LULLABY.

ANNOUNCER

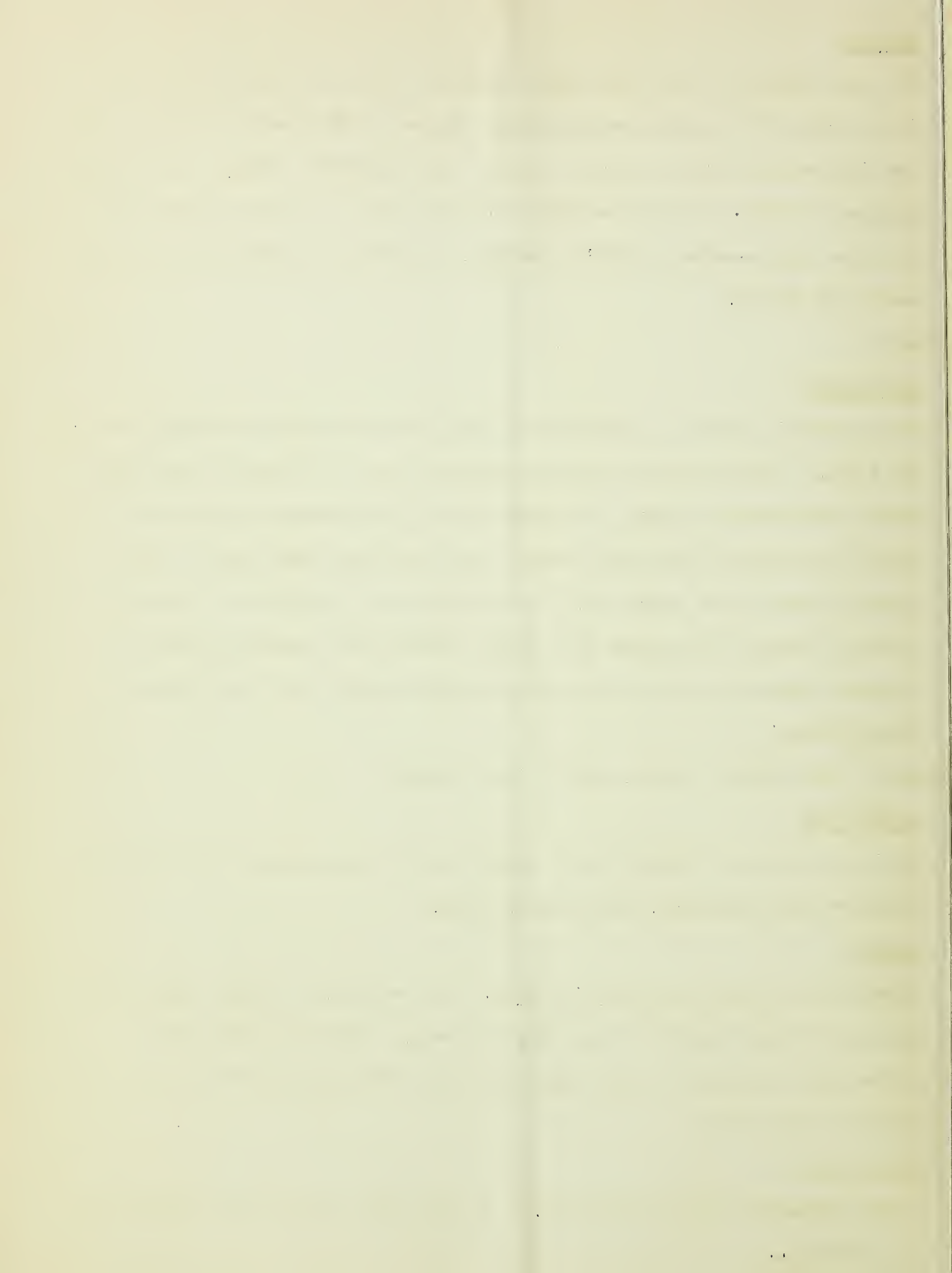
And now, here is Ewing Jones, your weekly spokesman from the Soil Conservation Service, in Dayton, Ohio.

JONES

Thank you, _____. And without further ado, I'm going to keep right on the same subject. Here is a bulletin recently published by the Agricultural Extension Service, at Purdue University.

ANNOUNCER

"Soil Conservation in Indiana." I see your point right there on the cover...



JONES

Yes, just below that picture: "Grass and trees provide good cover for slopes. Proper land use is an important step in any soil conservation program."

ANNOUNCER

And that holds true not only for the Taylor farm, but for any farm in Indiana.

JONES

Any farm in hilly country, _____. Now, this bulletin, "Soil Conservation in Indiana," was prepared by the Extension Service primarily for Indiana farmers, but R. O. Cole, who wrote the bulletin, has given us permission to send copies to anyone interested, so we'll collect the requests.

ANNOUNCER

In other words, you want me to say that a copy of the bulletin, "Soil Conservation in Indiana," may be obtained by writing to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio.

JONES

That's right and thank you, _____. About a year ago, H. H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, gave an address before the Annual Conference of Extension Workers at Purdue University. His remarks were so enlightening that I think they ought to be repeated. Here is Johnston C. Craig, forester of the erosion control demonstration area over in Lawrence County, Indiana, near Bedford. Johnny, weren't you there when Dr. Bennett made his talk?

CRAIG

Yes, I was, Ewing, and I agree with you that his remarks bear repeating. I just wish we had time to go over them all.

JONES

How about some of the high spots?

CRAIG

Well, I remember one rather startling fact. Dr. Bennett said that, during the period from 1900 to 1920, Indiana farmlands were abandoned at the rate of 28,000 acres per year. But from 1920 to 1930, the rate of abandonment increased to 137,000 acres per year.

JONES

In other words, once-productive fields were abandoned more than four times as fast during the 10 years prior to 1930, as they were from 1900 to 1920.

CRAIG

And here's another point: Approximately two million acres of land--I'm speaking of Indiana alone--approximately two million acres of land have been essentially destroyed, stripped of its topsoil by erosion, gutted with gullies, and abandoned as worthless. And the worst of it is, erosion is now progressing in Indiana at a rate much faster than ever before.

JONES

I remember reading about a recent survey that found less than half of the land area of 52 Indiana counties suitable for the production of cultivated crops under present farming practices.

CRAIG

Dr. Bennett pointed that out. In other words, if farmers continue to plant open-tilled crops on steep hillsides, run their crop rows up and down the slope, leave fields unprotected by vegetation for long periods of time, and continue to use countless other destructive practices, this enormous area is going to suffer serious erosion damage--and possible ruin.

JONES

And what has happened in Indiana has also taken place in just about every other part of the country. But, fortunately, there's a bright side to the picture. In the last few years, we have made far greater advance toward conservation of our soil than in all the preceding years since America became a nation.

CRAIG

And we have to. I remember Dr. Bennett's words quite well: The national program of soil and water conservation is carrying us into a new era of land use--the kind of land use which substitutes for an old system of waste and exploitation a new system of land defense. This defense, based on sound methods of soil and water conservation, is as necessary to the continuing welfare of the nation as the protection of our shores from possible invasion.

JONES

True words, Johnny Craig, and thank you for helping us out today. The soil conservation trail has already been blazed. We know the methods that must be used if our lands are to be safeguarded against erosion, and more farmers are adopting these methods all the time.

ORGAN: (Brief bridge)

TEACHER

.....so you see, there's a difference between the geologic, or normal type of erosion that carved the Grand Canyon, and the accelerated, or man-made erosion that is ruining so many farm lands today...

SOUND: Ringing of school bell.

TEACHER

Well, there's the bell, so that will be all for today. Next week, I want each of you to read the new bulletin, "Soil Conservation in Indiana."

BOY

Teacher, I don't have a copy of that bulletin.

ANNOUNCER

Copies of the bulletin, "Soil Conservation in Indiana," may be secured by dropping a postcard or a letter to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio. Next week, "Reforestation in Muskegon County"....

SOUND: Thunder, followed by rain...

